

# EXODUS FOR CHRISTIANS

(PENTATEUCH SERIES)



"...SO THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK."  
(2 TIMOTHY 3:17)

## Approaching the Old Testament...

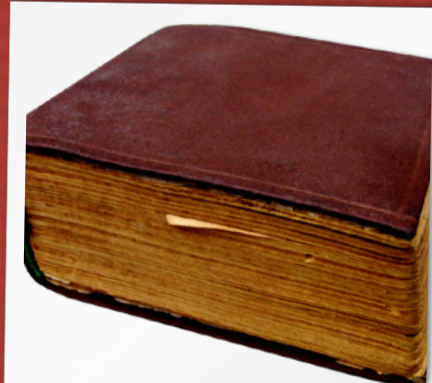
The Old Testament can be particularly difficult to understand. Set in the ancient near east, the OT begins God's plan of salvation through history and reveals God's character. In an ancient world of nomad shepherds, animal sacrifices, unfamiliar peoples and customs, reading the OT can be a challenge to understand in our age of

cars, mobile electronics and a global economy. According to John H. Walton, the key to effective interpretation of the Old Testament is "...to allow the bible to speak for itself. We all have assumptions about the Bible. These need to be constantly evaluated and refined lest they distort the teaching of the Bible. The objectives of the biblical

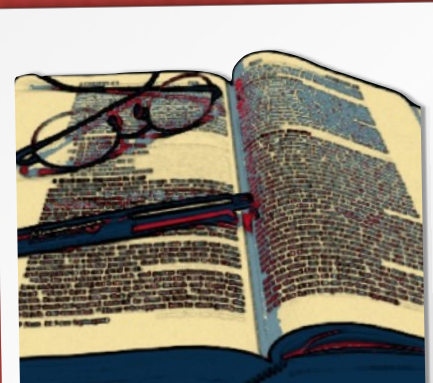
authors must not be subordinated to our own objectives... there are many valuable things to be learned from the Old Testament, but not all are things that the Old Testament is trying to teach." (Walton & Hill, *A Survey of the Old Testament*, 21) The Hebrew Scriptures are divided into three broad sections:



LAW



HISTORY



WRITINGS

# The Pentateuch

The term “Pentateuch” is commonly used to refer to the first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

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## THE UNIFYING THEME OF THE PENTATEUCH IS YAHWEH’S COVENANT PROMISE TO ABRAHAM (GENESIS 12:3)

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### “Five Scrolls” or “Torah”

Also referred to as the “Five scrolls” (Greek expression popularized by Hellenized Jews of Alexandria in the 1st century AD) or “Torah” (Hebrew speaking Jewish community traditionally reference to these books).

### Other Names...

The Pentateuch is also called: the Book of the Law and the Law of Moses. These titles emphasize the role of the human mediator.

### Literary Plan of Pentateuch

*Genesis 1-11*: Creation, fall & judgment

*Genesis 12-50*: Covenant Promise, election of Abraham, and providential preservation of his family

*Exodus*: Miraculous deliverance of God’s people from bondage in Egypt, covenant relationship expanded to Israel as his people at Sinai, and the law given as a theocratic charter for Israel

*Leviticus*: Expansion of covenant law for the purpose of holiness among the people of Yahweh, since he will dwell in their midst.

*Numbers*: Testing, purging, and purifying of Yahweh’s covenant people in the Sinai wilderness wandering

*Deuteronomy*: Covenant renewal and the second law-giving as preparation for entry into the promised land by the second generation of Yahweh’s people.

# OT Law

There are more than 600 laws contained in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

The purpose of the biblical legislation was to order and regulate the moral, religious or ceremonial, and civil life of Israel in accordance with the holiness necessary for maintaining the covenant relationship with Yahweh.

The Old Testament law includes: commandments, statutes, and ordinances

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## “WE KNOW THAT THE LAW IS GOOD IF ONE USES IT PROPERLY.” (1 TIMOTHY 1:8)

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### Three C’s of Ancient Near East Laws

1. **Civil** law: marriage and family, inheritance, property, slaves, debt, taxes, and wages
2. **Ceremonial** law: murder, adultery, rape, theft, assault, false witness, liability
3. **Cultic** law: sacrifices, purification, object of worship, and festival observances



Interior chapel of Hatshepsut’s festival hall. Hatshepsut was the wife of Thutmose II and the aunt and stepmother of Thutmose III, believed by some to be the pharaoh of the Exodus. (*Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003)

### Functions of OT Law

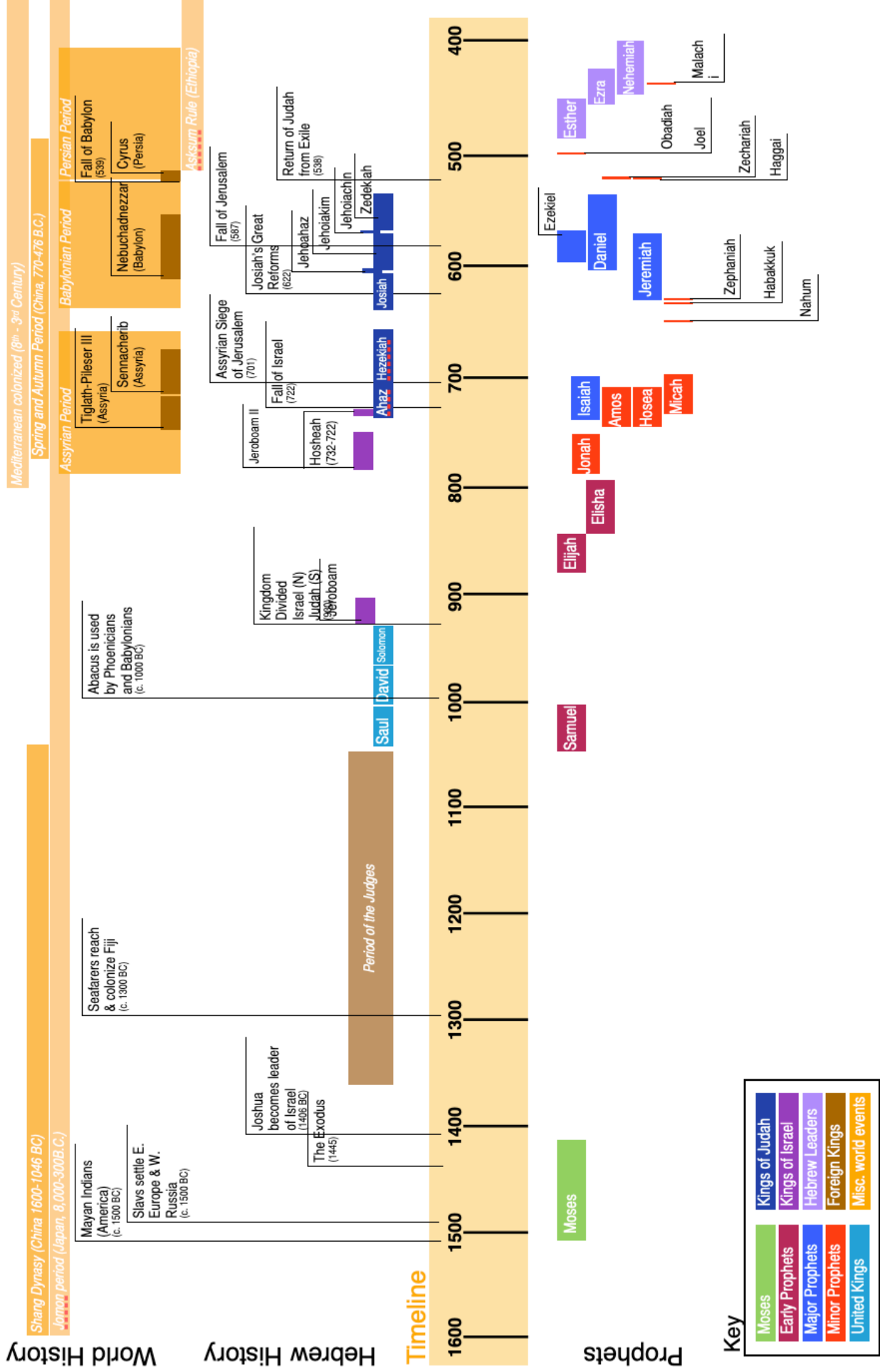
1. Point out sin in humanity for what it really is- rebellion and disobedience before God.
2. The law exposed the human need for divine redemption
3. It was intended to tutor Israel and prepare them for the revelation of Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ (Galatians 3:24)
4. Ultimately, the sacrificial and ethical demands of the Old Testament law foreshadowed the New Testament: justification by faith in Jesus Christ alone.



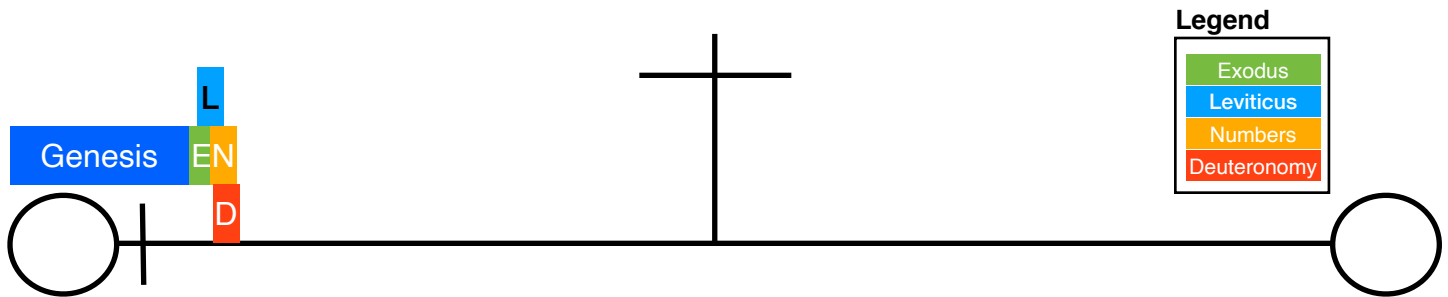
Traditional route of Israel’s exodus and wilderness wanderings. Accordance Maps Sampler, version 1.3. Edited by David Lang. Copyright © 2010 OakTree Software, Inc.



# Timeline of Old Testament Events



# Redemptive History in the Pentateuch



## Reading the Old Testament Christianly

**1. Recognize that the OT was first an inspired and authoritative text for Ancient Israel.**

**2. Recognize that the OT was and is God's self-revelation of Himself.**

**3. Context, Context, CONTEXT!**

**3.1. Text's Context: of the text and first audience**

**3.2. God's Context: where in redemptive history?**

**3.3. Your Context: what are you bringing into the text?**

**3.4. Common Pitfalls**

- \* USA, Modern Israel = 'Ancient Israel'
- \* Allegorizing, 'over-interpreting'
- \* Direct imports or moralistic imports

The mature believer is one who has combined Christ-like character with theological excellence.

# Exodus Overview



## DATE:

## PURPOSE:

*The purpose of Exodus is to explain how the ancient Hebrews became slaves in Egypt and their deliverance from Egyptian oppression. The book also reveals YHWH is the gloriously supreme God who is mighty to save, worthy of worship, and His divine presence dwells among His redeemed people.*

## KEY EVENTS:

## OUTLINE:

*Adapted from Hill & Walton, A Survey of the Old Testament; Enns, Exodus; ESV Study Bible.*

### **1. Israel's Exodus from Egypt (1:1-18:27)**

- 1.1. Israel in Egypt (1:1-2:25)
  - 1.1.1. Israel relocates to Egypt (1:1-7)
  - 1.1.2. Israel enslaved to Egypt (1:8-22)
- 1.2. Life & Call of Moses (2-4)
- 1.3. Moses & Aaron's Initial Request (5:1-7:7)
- 1.4. Ten Plagues & Exodus (7:8-15:21)
- 1.5. Journey from Egypt to Sinai (15:22-18:27)
  - 1.5.1. Redemption at the Red Sea (14)
  - 1.5.2. Song of Moses (15:1-20)
  - 1.5.3. Water problem: Marah (15:22-27)
  - 1.5.4. Food problem: Manna (16:1-36)
  - 1.5.5. Water problem: Massah and Meribah (17:1-7)
  - 1.5.6. Passage problem: Israel defeats Amalek (17:8-16)
  - 1.5.7. Administrative problem: Jethro advises Moses (18:1-27)

### **2. God's Covenant at Sinai (19:1-40:38)**

- 2.1. Preparations for God's Covenant (19)
- 2.2. The Mosaic Law: Covenant words and rules (20:1-23:19)
  - 2.2.1. The Ten Commandments (20:1-21)
  - 2.2.2. Worship Instructions: against idols and for God's altar (20:22-26)
  - 2.2.3. Detailed legislation & commands for the conquest (21:1-23:19)
- 2.3. Covenant confirmed (24:1-18)
- 2.4. Instructions for the Tabernacle (25:1-31:18; 35:1-40:33)
- 2.5. Rebellion and Forgiveness: The Golden Calf (32:1-34:35)
- 2.6. Glory Fills the Tabernacle (40:34-38)

**KEY IDEAS:**

1. The glorious supremacy of \_\_\_\_\_ over pagan deities.
2. The exodus as a \_\_\_\_\_ for ancient Israel.
3. The Mosaic law as a \_\_\_\_\_ and social charter for ancient Israel.
4. The presence of God \_\_\_\_\_ within the tabernacle with His people.

**GOSPEL CONNECTIONS:**